

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1499

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USNATO BRUESSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CH CZ

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS REFLECT CONTINUITY OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP

REFS A. PRAGUE 3158, B. PRAGUE 2686

1. SUMMARY: THE POST-1968 CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY-STATE LEADERSHIP THAT SUCCEEDED DUBCEK'S REFORMIST MOVEMENT REMAINS FIRMLY INTACT IN WAKE OF RECENT NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS HERE. COMPOSITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE ORGANS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN FOUR STAGES SINCE THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF OCTOBER 22-23 (REF A).

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NOT A SINGLE UPPER-LEVEL CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN THE COUNCIL

OF MINISTERS SINCE THE MINOR RESHUFFLE OF SEPTEMBER 15 (REF B).
THREE SECONDARY-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SHIFTS AT LEVEL OF CZECH AND
SLOVAK REPUBLICS, AND SOME RESHUFFLING OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN CARRY FORWARD THE PRACTICE OF MAKING ONLY
MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE STRUCTURE OF STATE LEADERSHIP.
END SUMMARY

2. NEWLY-ELECTED CZECH AND SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCILS MET IN
INAUGURAL SESSION NOVEMBER 3. EVZEN ERBAN AND VILIAM SALGOVIC
RETAINED CHAIRMANSIPS OF CZECH AND SLOVAK NATIONAL
COUNCILS, RESPECTIVELY.

3. TWO CHANGES IN CZECH REPUBLIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WERE
ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 4; ANTONIN JAKUBIK TO BE MINISTER OF TRADE,
AND KAREL POLAK TO BE MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION. IN SLOVAK GOVERNMENT,

VLADIMIR MARGETIN TAKES OVER MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND
CONSERVATION.

4. HOUSES OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY MET SEPARATELY, THEN JOINTLY
NOVEMBER 10. PRO-MOSCOW HARDLINER AND CZCP PRESIDUM
MEMBER, ALOIS INDRA WAS REELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL
ASSEMBLY, WHILE DALIBOR HANES AND VACLAV DAVID RETAINED
CHAIRMANSHIPS OF, RESPECTIVELY, THE HOUSE OF NATIONS, AND
HOUSE OF PEOPLE. THERE WAS, ADDITIONALLY, SOME ROTATION
AND CHANGE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS.

5. ON NOVEMBER 11, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEADED BY STROUGAL
RESIGNED, RECEIVED HUSAK'S THANKS, AND WAS REAPPOINTED IN TOTO.

6. WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL PIECEMEAL CHANGES MAY WELL OCCUR IN
COMING MONTHS. WE PRESENTTZ FORESEE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE
PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.
BYRNE

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